

Gathering Mushrooms

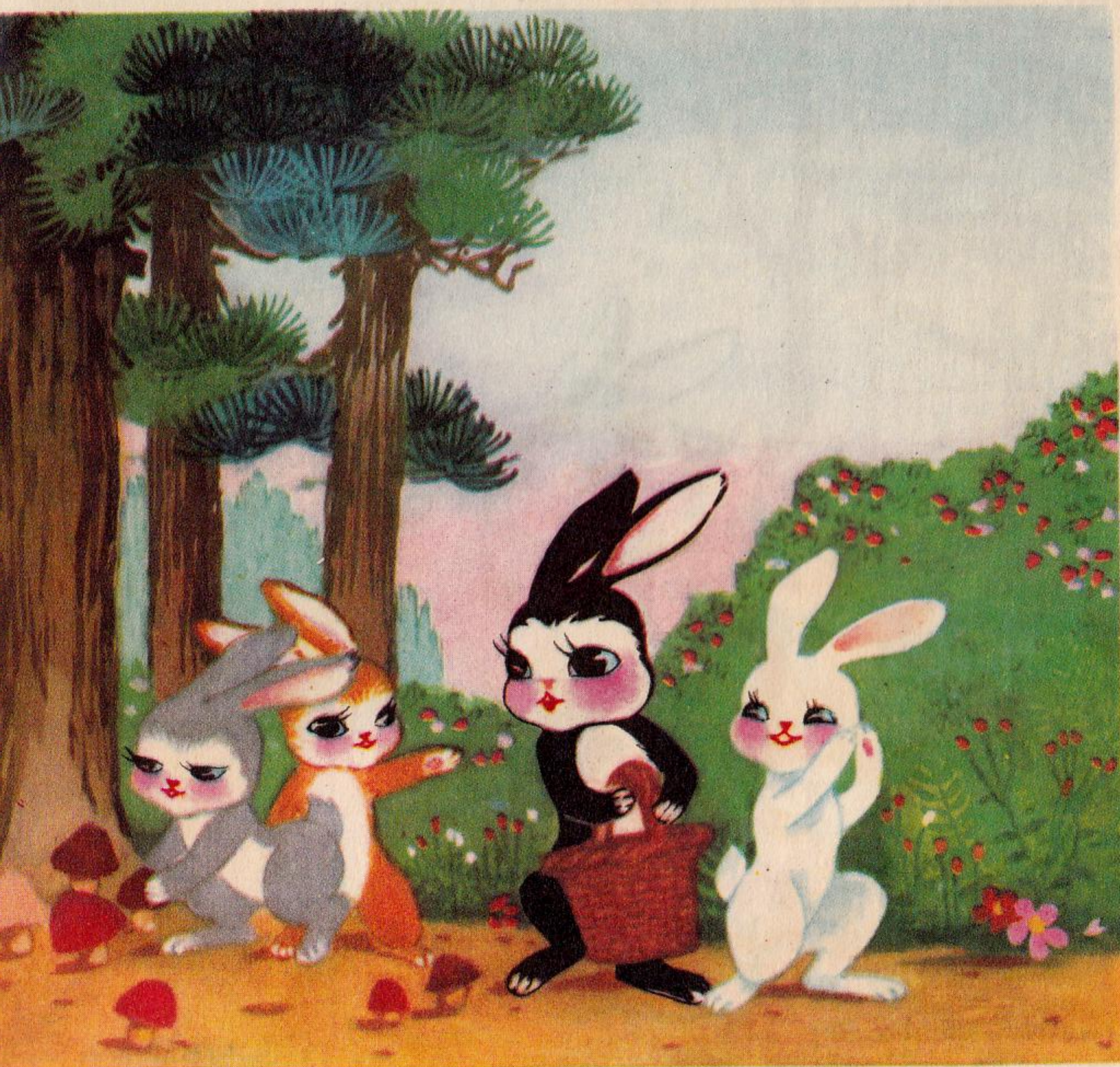


First edition 1977

Printed in the People's Republic of China



1. Four young rabbits sing happily on their way to gather mushrooms.



2. A lot of mushrooms here! Little Yellow suggests, "Big Black and Little White gather them here, Little Grey and I will go over there. Let's have a competition!"

"All right!" Little White answers with pleasure.



3. While Big Black and Little White are busy picking mushrooms, two butterflies fly about them.



. How beautiful! Little White dashes over to catch them.



5. Big Black calls out, "Little White, how can you fool around when you are meant to be working?" But naughty Little White goes on chasing the butterflies as if he hasn't heard.



Little White runs after them all the way to a cliff, and there he
sees a big mushroom.



7. Little White tries to climb down to pick it, but the boulder is
so smooth that he nearly slips down.



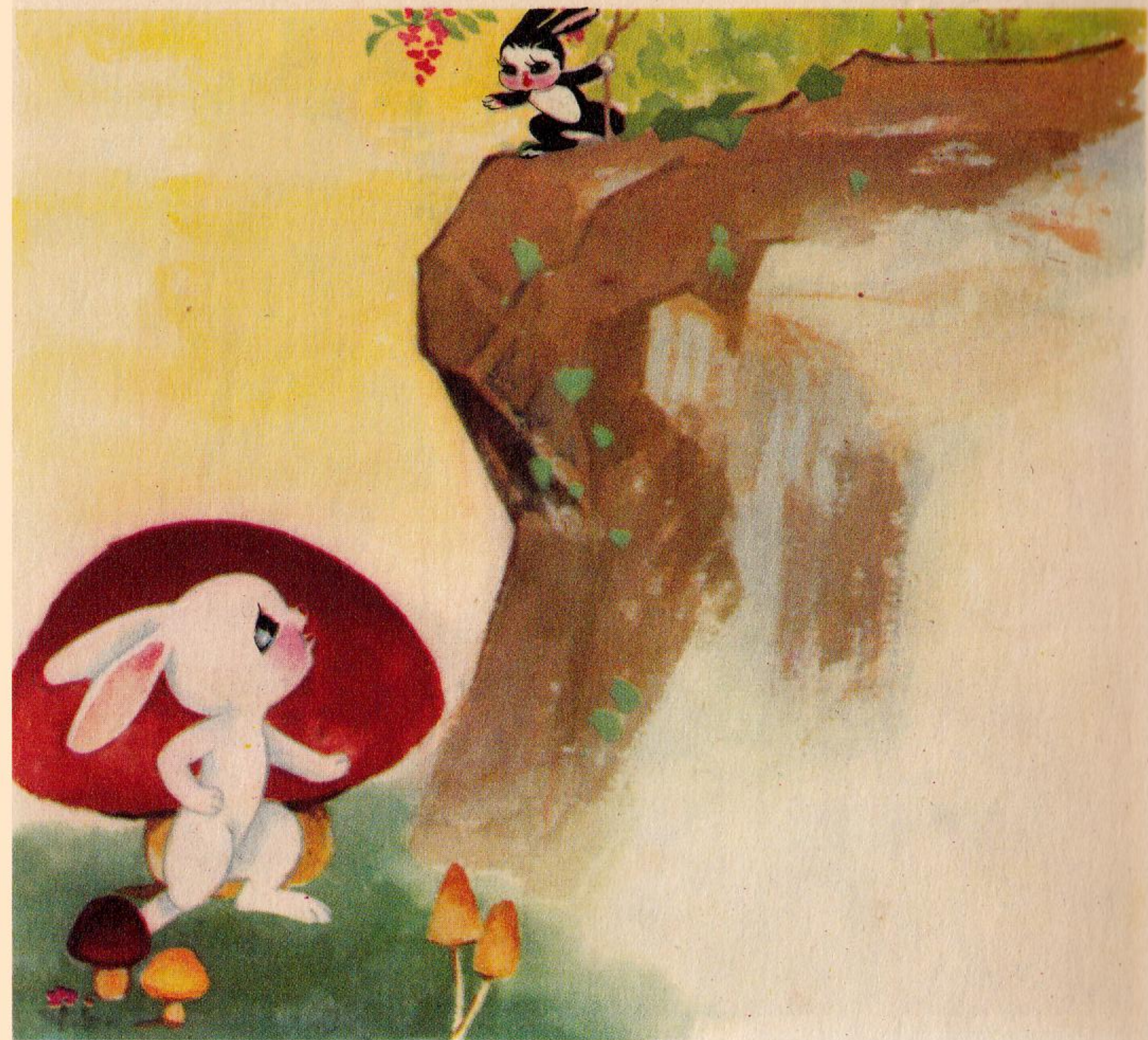
* How dangerous! Big Black, who is close behind, jumps over and just catches hold of him by the ears.



9. Suddenly Big Black gets an idea. He lets Little White down on a creeper.



10. "I've got it! I've got it!" Little White smiles happily.



11. Little White holds the big mushroom up and is about to take a bite when Big Black stops him. "Little White, the mushrooms we've gathered belong to everyone. You mustn't eat it first."



Little White doesn't care and insists on having his way. Big Black advises him, "Little White, you mustn't only think of yourself."



13. Grumbling, Little White walks away towards the wood with the big mushroom on his shoulder.



14. Big Black is worried and quickly warns him, "Don't go! There're wolves there!"



15. Dark clouds gather. Big Black cries out, "Little White, it's going to rain! Don't leave us!" "Never mind! The mushroom will be my umbrella," Little White replies.



16. As soon as Little White walks off, Big Black runs to look for Little Yellow and Little Grey.



17. The wind is blowing harder and harder. Little White says to himself: "It's so cold! Where can I go?"



Squirrel sees Little White from a tree and asks, "Why are you all alone? Don't you know there're wolves round here?"



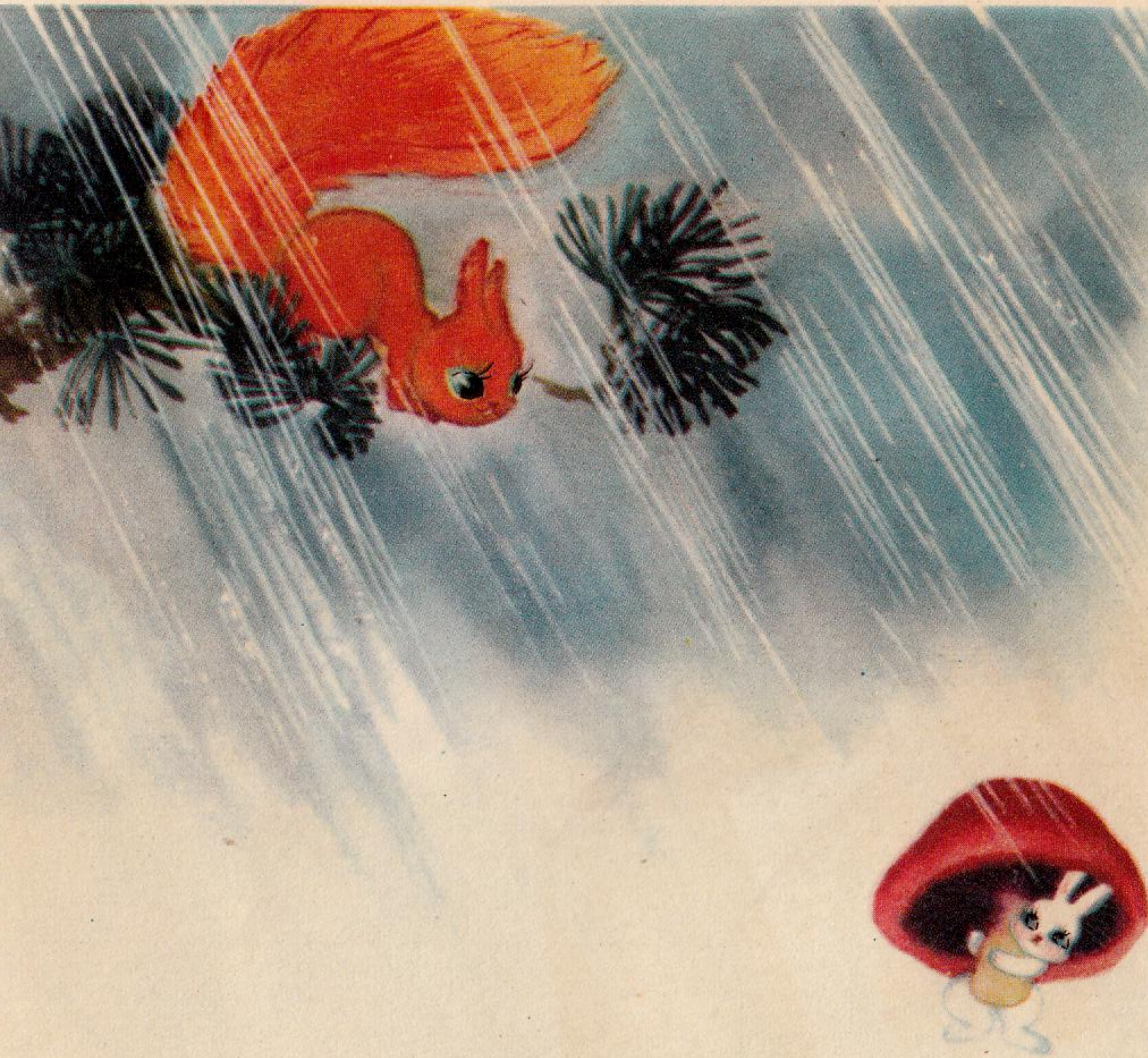
19. Jumping down from the tree, Squirrel offers to lead him off. Little White shakes his head. "Don't frighten me! I won't go with you. I have my big mushroom."



. It starts to rain. Squirrel says, "Little White, get into that hole in the tree. After it stops raining, I'll lead you back."



21. Little White tries to get into the hole, but it is too small for the big mushroom. "What about my mushroom?" he complains.



2. The rain comes down harder. "Little White," Squirrel shouts, "there's a big cave near the bridge."



23. Little White staggers across a single-plank bridge. He is trembling, and murmurs, "It's freezing! If only I could be with Big Black, how happy I would be!"



4. No sooner has Little White got across the bridge than a wolf howls at him from behind a tree. "Ha, ha, ha! Little rabbit, you've come just in time! I'm hungry now."



25. Scared out of his senses, Little White screams and falls upon the ground, letting his big mushroom roll away.



Little White gets to his feet, and starts running back at once. Help! Help! Big Black!" he cries out.



27. The wolf is hot on his heels. "Big Black is far away," he says. "No-one will come to rescue you!"



. Little White is really scared now. He misses his step and falls
om the bridge.



29. Looking down from the bridge, the wolf says bitterly, "Little
rabbit, so you got away this time!"



30. When Squirrel sees Little White falling, he cries out: "Little White, catch hold of the branch."



31. In the cliff under the bridge is a gnarled tree stretching out like a huge hand.



2. Little White lands on it. He is alone in the middle of the precipice, with tears rolling down his face. "What shall I do?"



33. Squirrel jumps over to comfort him, "Don't cry, Little White. Wait until the wolf is gone. I'll get your companions to rescue you. But you must never go out alone again!"



34. Little White is very sorry for what he has done. "It's all my fault," he says to Squirrel. "I wanted the big mushroom all to myself, and so I left my brothers." Squirrel says, "How dangerous it is! You mustn't be selfish any more."



35. Then they hear a voice calling from the hill: "Little White! Little White! Where are you?" "It sounds like Big Black is coming," says Squirrel. "I'll go up to have a look."



36. At the sound of Big Black's voice, Wily Wolf, who is hiding nearby, gets excited again. "Fine!" he thinks. "One rabbit got away but another one's coming."



37. Climbing over the hill and through the wood, Big Black keeps on shouting: "Little White, where are you?"



38. When he gets to the big tree, Squirrel goes over to tell him, Little White has fallen onto the tree in the middle of the cliff. Hurry up and help him up. But Wily Wolf. . . ."



39. "Where's Wily Wolf?" asks Big Black. Presently the wolf leaps out and roars, "Here I am!"



40. Big Black turns and immediately disappears into the hole in the tree.



41. Wily Wolf is angry because he is too big to follow in.



2. After sitting for a moment in front of the hole, he plays a trick. "Black rabbit, I'm leaving now," he speaks into the hole.



43. Big Black comes out to look about. There's no sign of Wily Wolf.



44. But suddenly Wily Wolf appears again, and Big Black retreats into the hole right away.



45. Wily Wolf says to himself: "I should hide myself further away and stay hidden longer. I must eat at least one of them today!"



46. Soon Little Yellow comes along too, and Big Black tells him, "I've found Little White, but here. . . ."



47. Before he has finished speaking, Squirrel jumps over, exclaiming, "Wily Wolf's hiding in the grass. Quick, take cover!"



3. They are about to run away when Wily Wolf appears before them. "Wonderful!" he roars. "You've come to provide a good dinner for me."



49. Squirrel pelts the wolf with fir-cones and the wolf threatens him with his claws, yelling, "Be careful, little rat! I'll gulp you down!"



50. Little Grey arrives and shouts, "Don't be afraid of the wolf. We have enough strength to defeat him!"



51. They rain stones on the wolf so hard that he dodges and says: "These rabbits are really strong!"



52. Taking this opportunity, Big Black runs to the single-plank bridge to have a look and gets an idea. "Little Yellow," he calls, follow me across the bridge, quick!"



53. They reach the other side of the bridge with the wolf half-way across.



54. "One, two, three!" Big Black and Little Yellow pull the bridge down with all their might.



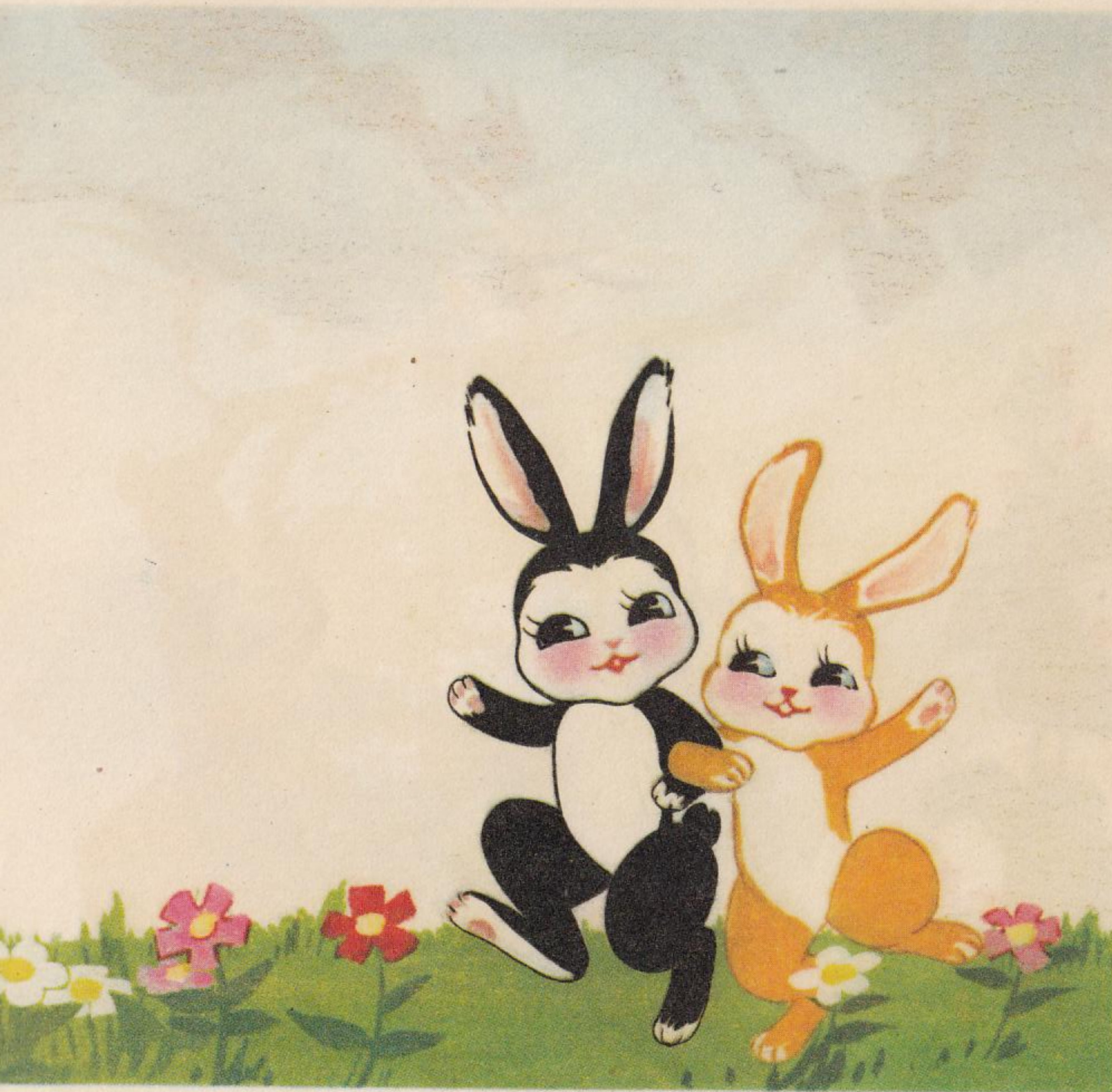
55. Wily Wolf screams, falling down into the deep gully.



Little White, still under the bridge, can see clearly. He shouts with joy, "Wily Wolf is dead!"



57. They have beaten the wolf! Little Grey claps his hands and Squirrel dances happily.



. Big Black and Little Yellow sing joyfully: *Together, we are strong. No enemy can knock us down.*



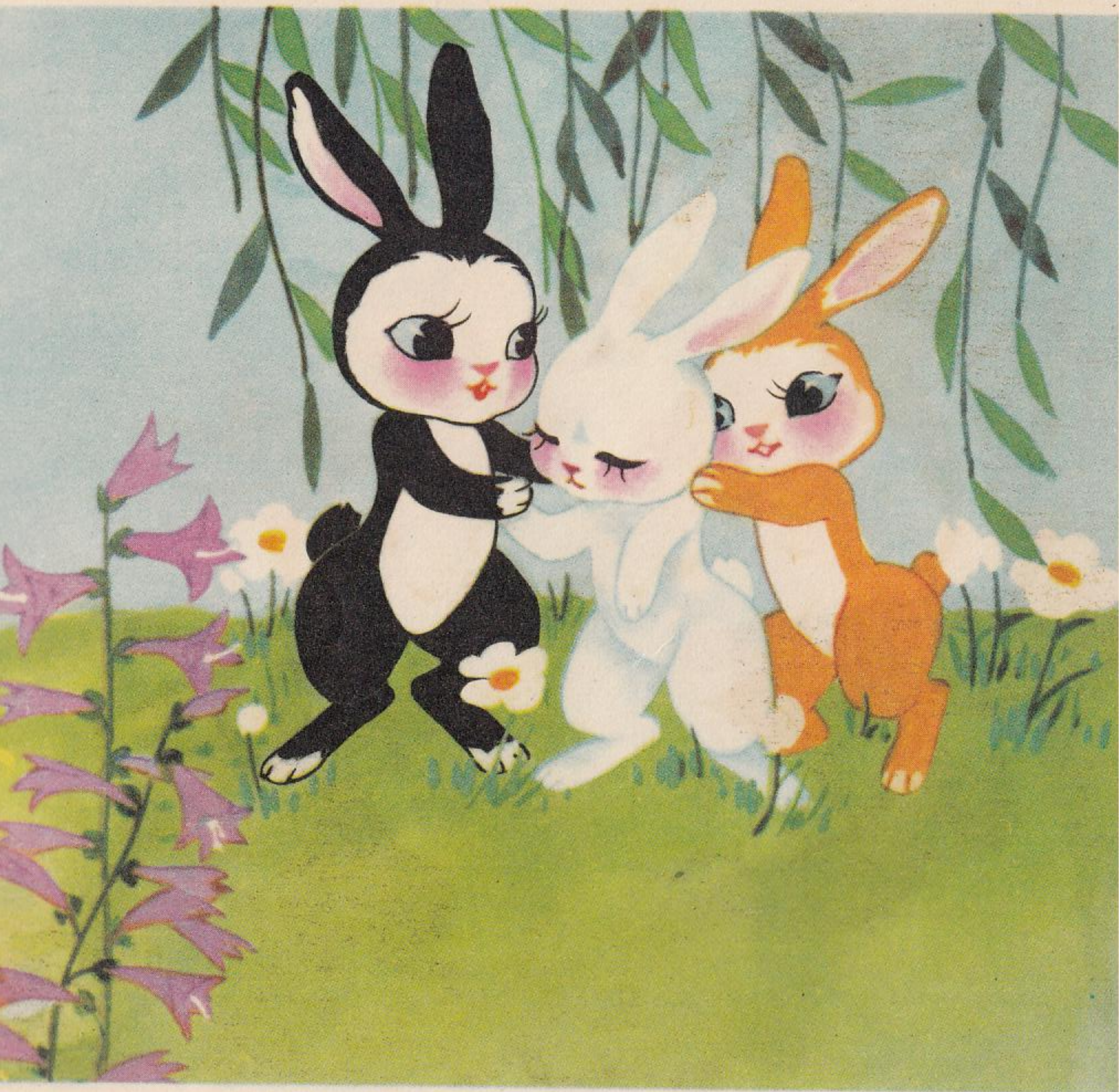
59. "Big Black, how can I climb back up?" Little White calls anxiously from below. "Don't worry!" Big Black replies lowering a creeper and asking Little Yellow to hold it tightly.



60. Big Black slips down the creeper onto the tree.



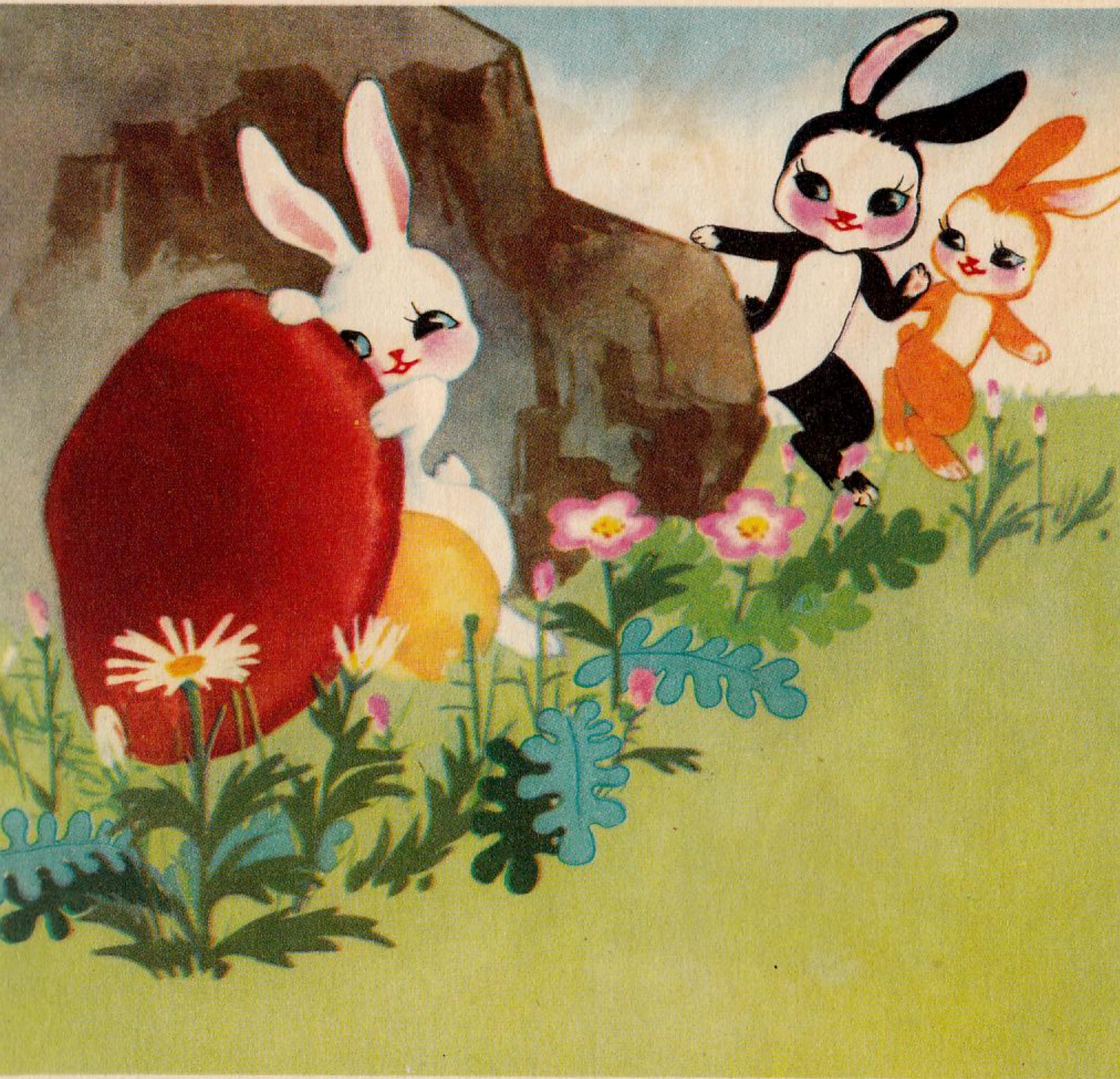
61. He helps Little White climb up, then goes back up the same way.



2. Standing together with his friends, Little White bows his head shamefully. "Big Black, I was wrong."



63. Big Black tells him, "Don't be sad. Everything will be fine if you correct your mistakes." Then he asks, "Where's your big mushroom?" Shaking his head, Little White replies: "I lost it."



64. They search around, and find the big mushroom behind a stone. 'It belongs to all of us!' Little White says happily.



65. Now without the bridge, they have no way to cross the gully. Big Black takes hold of a creeper and calls, "Come on! Let's swing over!"



66. Big Black asks Little Yellow to take hold of it, and then pushes him hard. Yellow Rabbit swings across easily. And Little Grey and Little White follow suit.



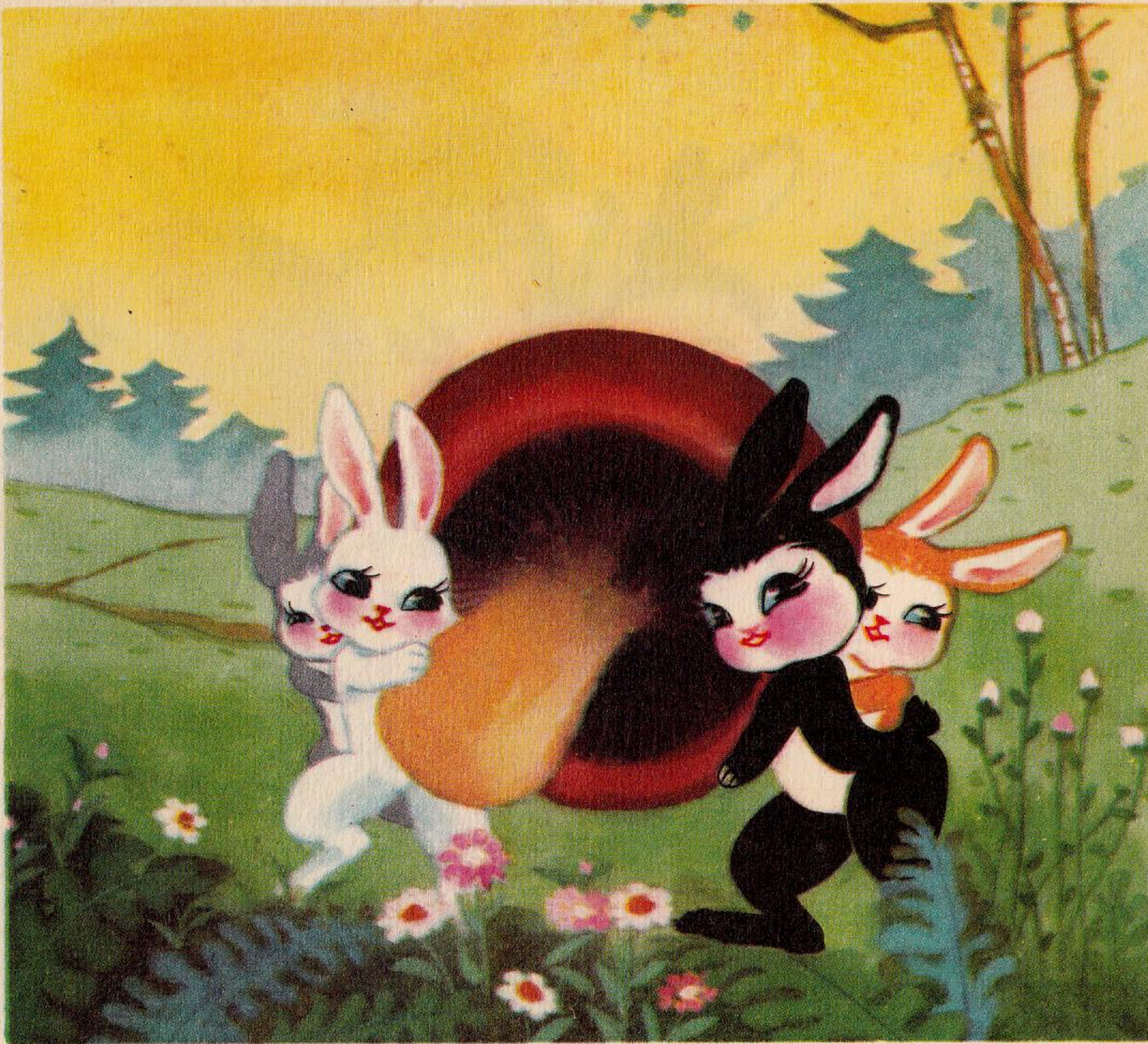
67. After tying the creeper round the big mushroom, Big Black swings it forward, shouting, "Catch!"



68. At last, it's Big Black's turn. He takes a few steps back, then rushes forward, swinging over on the creeper. Turning a somersault, he lands before his companions.



69. The rabbits bid Squirrel farewell. Big Black says, "Squirrel, thank you very much for helping us get rid of the wolf."



70. Carrying the big mushroom home, the rabbits sing out loud:
*The sun shines bright o'er the beautiful land; we sing and march hand
in hand.*